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Appl. No. 10/623,484 Amdt. dated Aug. 23, 2005 Office Action mailed March 23, 2005

Amendments to the Specification:

Please delete the one paragraph Abstract appearing on page 61 of the specification, and replace it with the following new Abstract paragraph:

A method and apparatus for indicating device and system readiness to a user. An indicator is located on one or more devices of a data-handling system. The state of the indicator communicates the status of the device or system. The indicator can be standardized across two or more devices of the data-handling system. The indicator can include a single element or multiple elements. .